

Private.

PAID

M

Rev. A. A. Phelps

Boston,

Mass.



Post paid.

Therefore, I think the whole thing had better be stayed a while till it can be revised. As now managed, it will do no good, & may do much harm. Can't you see, or write to Mr. Torrey about it?

Nearly all, if not the whole of our Committee will hold on till the annual meeting. Whether I shall be re-appointed, is more than I can say - if re-appointed, whether I shall accept or not, will depend upon the doings of the Society then. And I think I speak the sentiments of the majority - but perhaps am mistaken. Certainly, no one is responsible for this day so late myself.

Please show this letter to Mr. Wright, & to no one else.

My best regards to
Mr. Phelps; and believe me
to be thine truly,
H. Stanton

was not prepared to think it best to nominate
a candidate ^{for President} in any event; & altho. I was
not opposed to a Convention to discuss the
propriety of making a nomination, yet, I
thought our leading friends should be consulted
before even such a convention was called.
Pro. Sewall says he said nothing to bro. T. that
would authorize him in using his name as one
who designated him to take this course. Judge
Jay & L. Tappan are dead set against the
whole thing, & therefore, altho. I have not spoken
to them, they of course gave no countenance to
it - if indeed they were consulted. (2) I think
the move a bad one - i.e., calling getting names to
call a convention to positively nominate candidates.
If any convention is held, I think it should
be one for consultation as to the propriety. It
must be unwise ~~for~~ for a mere minority
to move in this business. (3) Before any convention
is called, I think others should be consulted besides
New-Yorkers & Bostonians.

Private.

H. B. Stanton

15

New York Feb. 4. 1840

Dear bro. Phelps:

I have recently seen two or three letters - one from Saml. Webb of Phil^a, which relate to a circular, that bro. Torrey is ~~sending out~~ ^{sending out}, about the nomination of President by a convention to be called in this city next spring. Mr. Webb quotes this passage from bro. Torrey's letter: "after free consultation with many in different parts of the friends in N. York & Boston, I was designated to address many in different parts with a view of obtaining their names to the call" &c. Now, bro. Phelps, I think this is a bad business in many respects. (1) Without intending it, bro. Torrey, by such statements, conveys a wrong impression. Bro. Birney did not give his assent to the project of calling a Convention in the way proposed, & especially did not designate bro. Torrey for that work, altho he (bro. B.) did say he thought it would ^{be} a good move for the abolitionists to bring forward a candidate, if they were agreed. I told bro. Torrey I